

GTAS June Monthly Report

Summation

In May we installed early versions of GTAS systems into the Pilot Texas facilities to resolve what we knew would be system startup and client/server communications firewalls between NOAAs Regional Headquarters and deployment site client systems. We do these installations early on to reduce the risks of introducing new technology into operational environments through iterative deployments. In June our work involved developing the GTAS client for its operational deployment onto these platforms in July.

Training Manual and User guide Update

There were changes and updates made to the GTAS User Guide and Training Manual. The User Guide was updated based on preliminary feedback from users at the Dallas EOC and the FT Worth WFO. Each facility requested that specific products and capabilities be added to the system to help meet their own requirements for issuing public warnings. Additionally the Training Manual was updated to add information concerning new menu selections and user interface capabilities.

Client Development

Work continued to acquire geospatial shape file data and integrating these data on existing map background data. Existing map backgrounds on FXC go down to the County Warning Area scale. Because street level data is required for GTAS new GIS shape file data are be integrated into the client. Some of these data sets include government facilities, military installations, hospitals, schools, etc. More detailed data such as neighborhood streets are needed as reverse-911 vendors can navigate address/phone numbers down to 12-meter resolution. To accommodate these new map data a city scale was added to the display. Further, once a scale is chosen, the user can zoom in or out with progressive disclosure to view additional GIS attributes. This was added in the event that emergency managers order public evacuations.

Improvements are being made to the toxic plume model capabilities for emergency managers. These include the ability to identify whether the release is instantaneous (such as in an explosion), or continuous (tanker truck spill, train derailment or building fire with hazardous chemicals). Further, if known, the emergency manager can input the type of chemical, whether it's a liquid, gas or particulate, and the rate of release (gallons per hour for example).

New capabilities are being added to the FXC server and client in the event of a terrorist strike where multiple toxic releases were to occur in a given city simultaneously. To do this an emergency manager can point and click on a map where each release occurred and initiate dispersion model runs for each location.

Lastly we are working to provide the 12-km North American Model (NAM-12) as a back up for the 4-km meteorological model that will be used to provide the wind and stability

fields necessary for the plume model runs. In the event that the 4-km model is unavailable, the system will automatically default to the 12-km for continuous service.

Anticipated July Activities

- * Complete the toxic plume model capabilities described above (multiple releases, type and rate of release);
- * Complete meteorological model hot back up development;
- * Allow each deployment site to have multiple GTAS clients;
- * Conduct “Familiarization Training” to users at both the Dallas EOC and the WFO by giving live demonstrations using “GO-TO Meeting” remotely from GSD in Boulder;
- * Install the new version of the GTAS system at both the Dallas EOC and FT Worth WFO;
- * Conduct hands-on training at each of those sites;